

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants:

1. Cancel claims 2, 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Rewrite allowable claims 5-7 as independent claims, thereby rendering claims 5-10 allowable.
3. Amend independent claim 1, 11 and 14 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 2, thereby rendering claims 1, 3-4, 11-13 and 14 allowable.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, the Examiner has ample bases for withdrawing all rejections and for allowance of all pending claims. Accordingly, a formal indication of allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

NAKATSU et al


Appl. No. 09/373,544

October 9, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



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